

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Lardizzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Newman, Sarg and Weir

Members Excused: Keithley, Lank, Newstadt and Wasson

Staff Present: Davila, Peterson and Tucci

Introduction of Guest(s): Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), Tom Kelly (MOWW), Myron Smith and Jerry Stauffer (DELVETS), Dave Curtis, Brent Lazar, Monica Morris and Sylvia Carson (Positive Points), William Oldham (Dover RAO), Pat Caldwell and Charles Quesenberry (VAMC), Ed Perkowski (AMC Museum), Paul Davis (VVA), Dave Skocik (Delaware Veterans Coalition) and Judy & Richard Campbell

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Mrs. Evans requested an information sheet about the Commission for the American Legion newsletter.

Mr. Smith reported on recent DELVETS ceremonies and activities.

Mr. Curtis spoke about their Positive Points Program. Ms. Carson and Ms. Morris discussed potential ideas for helping the veteran community.

Mrs. Campbell expressed her wishes to have the Cemetery admissions eligibility rules changed. Mr. Davila discussed the eligibility process and spoke about upcoming increases in burial costs.

Mr. Perkowski announced that they are planning a celebration at the AMC Museum on November 12, 2012.

Mr. Davis spoke about BG Reynolds, a Vietnam War POW, living in Wilmington and a lifetime member of the VVA. The VVA has extended an invitation to the KWVA to place a stone at the Kent County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. Discussion followed.

Mr. Quesenberry spoke about the Wilmington VA Homecoming and announced there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Women's Health clinic (3rd floor) on March 16, 2012, at 3:00 pm. He also spoke about changing the term PTSD, by dropping the D for Disorder because of the image it presented. Commissioner Sarg inquired about data previously requested in reference to patient care access and Mr. Quesenberry provided that information and discussed other VA events and programs.

Mr. Peterson introduced their new Administrative Specialist III, Ms. Tucci. He provided a monthly report for the Delaware Veterans Home and spoke about admissions and pay issues. He indicated that June is the Home's 5-year Anniversary and they are working on putting together a month of

celebrations. He made a request on behalf of the residents to purchase an 80-inch flat screen television that can be mounted in the dining facility; the estimated cost is \$6,130.

MOTION BY CORSA TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE LARGE SCREEN TELEVISION FROM THE VETERANS HOME FUND, SECONDED BY GOSS, MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Peterson spoke about the process required to open the blue wing and made the Commissioners aware of an upcoming hearing that Mr. Collins and himself will attend to justify the need to open the new wing. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend the meeting to see the process.

MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO ACCEPT JANUARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NORTHERN CEMETERY

Commissioner Harden reported that the irrigation system is ready and they built a shed to house the pump.

HEALTH SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa requested permission to represent the Commission at the Brain Injury Association of Delaware event in March 2012. He announced that he is now a member of the Executive Board for the Home of the Brave and they are looking for donations. He also reported they are trying to start a women veteran's homeless shelter. He spoke about the issue of homeless individuals needing dentures and discussion followed. He announced that there is a Ruck Run at Dover AFB in honor of the KWV.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Commissioner Weir reported that the VFW Chapter in Seaford will honor two WWII veterans at their next meeting.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Thompson reported that DELVETS will host the Memorial Day Service on May 30, 2012, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and KWVA will host the program at the Northern Cemetery. Flag Day at the Southern Cemetery will be hosted by the DAV on June 14, 2012.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Carroll (MOPH) – Their national organization has changed their scheduling practices for visiting legislators.

Corsa (VVA) – He has been talking with the VVA President about adopting the Home of the Brave.

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Commander will be visiting Delaware in March 2012.

Goss (KWVA) – The Korean War Veterans' 4th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 31, 2012.

Harden (WAVES) – She attended the joint meeting of the Veterans Affairs Committee in January. She volunteered for the Welcome Home Celebration at the Wilmington VA.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He will be attending the Mid-Winter Conference and they will be meeting with the House and Senate of the Armed Forces Committee. He will attend the District IV meeting in Atlantic City, NJ, March 18-19, 2012.

Newman (VFW) – The Red, White & Blue Gala raised \$40,000 for Operation Uplink. The VFW will be in Washington, DC, from March 3-8, 2012, discussing veterans issues.

Sarg (MOAA) – He thanked everyone who attended their fundraiser and reported that it was a success. All the monies raised will go toward their college scholarship in Kent County. He spoke about a proposed new means test for retiree health insurance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Thompson reintroduced the issue of giving admission preference for the Veterans Home to VA priority 1 veterans. The issue was put to a vote and consequently the previous motion was withdrawn. Mr. Peterson provided a reminder that there is an Advisory Committee meeting on March 7, 2012.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. McMullen announced that the Air Force Sergeants Association will be holding their 35th Convention in Dover from April 20-25, 2012.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MARCH 20, 2012 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED